

JUN 26 1961

Pers 2 MTD TAYLOR

Approved For Release 2005/01/05 : CIA-RDP75-00149R000700480034-9

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 26, 1961

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

The President has announced his intention to recall General Maxwell D. Taylor to active military service for assignment as Military Representative of the President effective July 1, 1961.

In this capacity he will assist the President as an adviser and staff officer primarily within the military and intelligence fields. He will have no command authority but will have access to all information necessary for the discharge of his responsibilities to the President.

As military representative, General Taylor will be staff officer advising and assisting the President with regard to those military matters which reach him as Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces. In his new role, General Taylor will not be interposed between the President and any of his statutory advisers or advisory bodies such as the Secretary of Defense, the Joint Chiefs of Staff or the National Security Council. But he will maintain close liaison with them and give his personal views to assist the President in reaching decisions.

General Taylor will be available to represent the President when the latter desires senior military representation at home or abroad.

In the intelligence field, General Taylor will have the responsibility of watching the function of the intelligence apparatus of the government to assure the President it meets the future needs of the government. He will work closely in working with the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board and verify that maximum use is made of its recommendations.

Biographic information is attached

MORE

00108056

0001855

BIOGRAPHY OF GENERAL MAXWELL D. TAYLOR

Maxwell D. Taylor was born in Keytesville, Missouri, August 26, 1901. He attended Northeast High School and Kansas City Junior College, Missouri, was graduated from the United States Military Academy, West Point, New York, No. 4 in the class of 1922, and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Corps of Engineers.

He was first assigned to Fort Humphreys, Virginia, where he was a student officer in the Engineer School. Upon completion of this course in March 1923, he was transferred to the 17th Engineers at Camp Meade, Maryland. In May 1923, he went to Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, for duty with the 3rd Engineers. During his tour in Hawaii, he was for a time Aide to Major General William R. Smith, Commanding General of the Hawaiian Department and of Schofield Barracks in July 1925.

In June 1926, he returned to the United States and was stationed at Camp Lewis, Washington, with the 6th Engineers. He transferred to the Field Artillery in July 1926, and served with the 10th Field Artillery until June 1927, when he sailed for Paris, France, to study the French language in preparation for service at the United States Military Academy.

Returning to the United States the following September, he was ordered to the US Military Academy at West Point, New York, as an instructor of French and subsequently was assistant Professor of Spanish. In August 1932, he entered the Field Artillery School at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. In August 1933, he was ordered to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, to attend the Command and General Staff School.

Upon his graduation from the two-year course in June 1935, he sailed for Japan and the following November was stationed with the American Embassy at Tokyo as a student of the Japanese language. In September 1937, he was detached for duty at Peking, China, as Assistant Military Attache, and in December of that same year returned to his post in Tokyo.

In June 1939, he sailed for the United States to enter the Army War College, Washington, D.C. At the completion of this course, in June 1940, he went on a special mission to nine Latin American countries in connection with Hemisphere defense.

In December 1940, he assumed command of the 12th Field Artillery Battalion at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. In July 1941, he returned to Washington, D.C., for duty in the Office of the Secretary of the General Staff, where he remained until July 1942, when he was transferred to Camp Claiborne, Louisiana, as Chief of Staff of the 82nd Infantry Division. In this capacity, he personally assisted in the development of the first Airborne Divisions of the Army, becoming Artillery Commander of the 82nd Airborne Division on December 4, 1942.

He went overseas with his division in March 1943, and took part in the Sicilian and Italian Campaigns. In "Crusade in Europe", General Eisenhower records General Taylor's mission to Rome on September 7, 1943, when he was sent by British PT boat and Italian corvette through enemy lines to Rome 24 hours ahead of the planned airborne operation and scheduled invasion of Italy, to confer with leading Italian authorities in order to inform the Allied commander whether or not an air drop on the airfields about Rome should be attempted in view of possible violent German reaction. General Eisenhower wrote on page 184: "The risks he (General Taylor) ran were greater than I asked any other agent or emissary to undertake during the war -- he carried weighty responsibilities and discharged them with unerring judgment, and every minute was in imminent danger of discovery and death." During the Italian Campaign, he was initially the senior US

556080100

MORE

-3-

member of the Allied Control Commission in contact with the Italian Government. A year later, in March 1944, he became Commanding General of the 101st Airborne Division, the airborne invasion of Holland on September 17, 1944, and the campaigns of the Ardennes and Central Europe.

In September 1945, he returned to the United States for duty as Superintendent of the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York.

In January 1949, he was assigned to European Command headquarters at Heidelberg, Germany, as Chief of Staff, and the following September became the first US Commander, Berlin. He was appointed Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations, G-3, in the Department of the Army, February 13, 1951.

On August 1, 1951, he became Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Administration of the Army. He was appointed to succeed General James A. Van Fleet as Commanding General Eighth US Army in Korea, and assumed command on February 11, 1953.

Under him, the Eighth Army engaged in some of the bitterest fighting of the Korean War, and when the armistice was signed on July 27, 1953, United Nations troops stood well above the 38th parallel. Following the armistice, he instituted a vigorous training program for all troops under his command including the Republic of Korea Army.

Four historic post-armistice operations were carried out during his Korean service: LITTLE SWITCH in April 1953, a prisoner exchange in which 684 sick and wounded were returned to the UN; BIG SWITCH in August-September 1953, a POW exchange that returned 12,773 UN troops; OPERATION COMEBACK, the repatriation in January 1954 of 21,797 Chinese and North Koreans who renounced Communism; and OPERATION GLORY, the exchange in September 1954, of 4,176 UN and 13,543 Chinese Communist and North Korean bodies of personnel killed in combat.

Under his supervision, the Republic of Korea Army was built into a 20-division force, and plans were laid for a ROKA reserve force of 10 divisions. The First ROK Field Army and the Second ROK Army (Zone of the Interior) were activated, together with the III, V, and VI ROK Corps and the 20th, 21st, 22nd, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th ROK Divisions.

In November 1953, he initiated the Armed Forces Assistance to Korea program, under which the Armed Forces in Korea extended material assistance to the Korean people in rebuilding their nation. Army supplies totaling \$20,000,000 supported the program which became, second only to combat readiness, a major mission of Eighth Army. By the time he left Korea, more than 1200 separate projects were completed and another 750 begun.

To improve the welfare of his own troops, in December 1953, he initiated a large-scale educational program to give all non-commissioned officers at least an eighth grade education and all other soldiers at least a fourth grade education. By November 1954, nearly 18,000 had raised their educational level to minimum standards.

Effective November 20, 1954, he was placed in command of all ground forces in Japan, Okinawa, and Korea when he took command of the combined staffs of the United States Army Forces, Far East, and Eighth United States Army, with headquarters at Camp Zama, Japan.

Effective April 1, 1955, he was named Commander-in-Chief of both the Far East Command and the United Nations Command.

006080100

MORE

9987000

On June 30, 1955, he was sworn in as Chief of Staff, United States Army. He retired June 30, 1959 after serving four years as Chief of Staff.

From October 1959 until September 1960 he was Chairman of the Board, Mexican Light and Power Company. Since January 1961 he has been President of the Lincoln Center for Performing Arts in New York City.

He and his wife, the former Miss Lydia Happer of El Paso, Texas, and Washington, D.C., have two sons, John and Thomas.

#####

001080955

0001856

001080955